

Tree of Life Newsletter

First Congregational United Church of Christ
235 Kenilworth Avenue – Elmhurst, Illinois 60126



JULY / AUGUST 2022

FROM OUR MODERATOR

Margaret Chittaro

Summer is here!

And at First Congregational summer means all hands on deck for our De Colores Summer Camp!

Marta Mendoza has been in planning mode since December to bring 100 kids the best summertime experience.

One of our most important outreach programs, De Colores takes dozens of volunteers to operate smoothly.

Thank you in advance to all those who have already signed up to help.

The De Colores team is still looking for adult volunteers.

Please consider giving of your time to this incredible program. You won't regret time spent with these children!

I look forward to sharing in the experience with you.

Happy summer everyone! See you on Sunday!

ATTENTION...CALLING ALL MEMBERS



De Colores Adult Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, July 24, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Soon our church will be carrying out our all-church children's Spanish camp Monday August 1 through Friday August 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This year's theme is La Naturaleza Que los Rodeo- The Nature That Surrounds Us.

Adult volunteers are needed to help with the shepherding of the different groups of children. Attending this meeting is a great way to learn more about the camp.

It is important that if you have signed up to provide leadership at the camp, you come to this meeting. We are meeting on the main level in classroom #100 at 11:00 a.m.

Muchas Gracias!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Martha Mendoza, Jim Molina, Margaret Chittaro, Claire Richter

The Worship Team continues to meet every Wednesday to plan out worship service. We have all of you in mind as we seek out guest ministers that move and inspire us. We think of you as we challenge ourselves to bring you meaningful services that also promotes Christian fellowship.

While every Sunday is a special time to worship together and share in fellowship, I highlight three upcoming services:

Sunday, July 3 is officially Pie Day at First Congregational!

Join us for communion and stay after service for fellowship and a slice of pie ... a great way to kick start your July 4th celebrations!

Sunday July 17 is Gospel Sunday at First Congregational!

Join us for a moving gospel music-heavy service directed by Jim Molina. After service, join us for fellowship and light refreshments.

Lastly, **Sunday August 7** is De Colores Sunday!

Join us as we celebrate this extraordinary program, lift up our volunteers and share in all the children experienced during the week.

And of course, after service, AN ICE CREAM PARTY!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Amarelis Morales-Berent, Lynette Rosen



During these months of July and August, our Children's Sunday School is meeting and having lots of fun having children connect with each other and God's creation.

We hope you will check your family calendar and plan on joining us at 10:00 a.m. on these summer Sundays for learning, connecting and fun!

De Colores Celebration
Sunday, August 7, 2022
10:00 a.m.



On the first Sunday of August, First Congregational celebrates the completion of our summer camp.

During our 10:00 a.m. worship we will celebrate the children that spent the week learning Spanish. We hope you will stay for our ice cream social immediately after this worship celebration.



High School Gathering
Sunday, August 21
4:00 p.m.

All students 9th – 12th grade are invited for dinner and fellowship. Together we will prepare a meal and discuss "What You Believe Matters".

The study of God (theology) explores what God has done, is doing and will do in the world. And it's not just for older Christians with degrees or pastors. It is for you in your everyday moments, questions and decisions.

We hope that your family will mark your calendars and plan on having your high school students join us for this interesting conversation. Thank you, Martha Mendoza

THE DIACONATE BOARD

Bridget Bixler, Brian Brigman, Calvin Jackson, Claire Richter, Raquel & William Roman

Another successful All Church Picnic in the books! Thank you to everyone for attending and sharing your favorite recipes.

So the Merriam-Webster definition of Summer is: “the season between spring and autumn comprising in the northern hemisphere ... extending from the June solstice to the September equinox.” It also says “*a period of maturing powers*” inspiring us all to take time this summer to grow in God's love.

We have an exciting lineup of guest ministers including: Rev. Jorge Morales, Rev. Robert Buckner, Rev Tom Norwalk and our own Jim Molina will host a "mini" concert on July 17. We look forward to being in community with you all on Sundays.

Huge shout out to Donna Scumaci for reading for the first time in June – what an amazing job! Don't forget to sign up to read scripture during service...and we welcome participation from the young adults of First Church.

MISSION BOARD

Rev. Jorge Morales, Gail Ogdon, Amy Reshamwala and Ann Thoele



DuPage PADS Summer Needs

DuPage Pads With the acquisition of a permanent housing site, we have different volunteer opportunities with PADS now. You can find out all they have going on from housing counselors, meal packers, children's activity counselors, employment mentoring and much more. Truly seems there is something for everyone. Check out all the opportunities at www.dupagepads.org.

Donations are also important when you want to help but aren't able to give of your time. A wish list of Urgent Donation Needs can be found posted on our church bulletin boards, in our bulletin inserts for the next few weeks or on their website listed above.

Purchases for specific items needed can be made directly through their Amazon wish list at <https://bit.ly/DuPagePadsWishList>



2022 'Cue for a Cause
Save the date for Labor Day Weekend
Sunday, September 4, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
City Parking Lot at York and Vallette

After eight years of barbecue fun, Elmhurst knows the place to be Labor Day Weekend is the “Cue for a Cause. This day of live music, food, drink, raffles, children’s entertainment, and, of course, friendly smoking and baking competitions provides the perfect place to gather with friends for summer’s last hurrah.

The purpose of the day is to raise money for EWAN as well as boost community awareness of its work. It’s a big event with many ways to participate, whether through competing, sponsoring, donating a raffle item, volunteering or just coming out to have a good time.

For a full look at how to get involved, check out our website at:
<https://www.elmhurstwalkin.org/2022-cue>

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jim Molina, Gayle Dawson, Linda Donahue, Jim Molina, Nilesh Reshamwala, Mary Swanson

The Music Ministry is looking forward to a summer of fun music making! On July 17 we will be performing a mini Gospel Music concert during the offertory. The Chancel Choir will be singing such favorites as "Wade in the Water" and "Peace in the Valley". We hope you will join us for this uplifting event as we sing some of the most beloved gospel songs.

GREEN TEAM

Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carolee Luppino, Chris Murray, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn, Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

Memorial Day Parade a Big Success!

Thanks to everyone who marched with us in the Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade! It was a beautiful morning. We wound up with a great group of 15 people who passed out De Colores flyers and picked up recycling along the route.

A special thanks to Jan Russell who provided the truck, Dan Briggs who updated the support structure for the Clutterbug and left us great instructions on how to



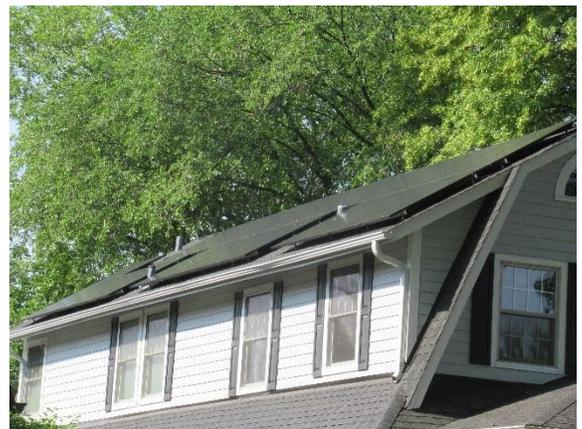
assemble it, and to Carolee who gave the Clutterbug a shiny new nose for the occasion. We had a lot of fun paying tribute to our Veterans.

A special note: As we have done in prior years, we marched at the end of the parade and picked up recycling from parade watchers. We yelled to the crowd that we were taking glass, plastic and paper. We collect the items in butterfly nets that we then dump into blue recycling cans on dollies so no one has to get their hands messy.

The parade watchers interpreted “paper” quite liberally and donated a lot of candy wrappers to our collection. Wondering if they were in fact recyclable, I went home and did some research afterwards. I learned that candy wrappers are usually not recyclable. The aluminum foil around a Hershey’s Kiss is, because it’s pure aluminum but should be balled with other pieces of foil to create a sizable ball. Loose, little pieces won’t get separated out from other recyclables at the recycling plant correctly and will only cause trouble. Other candy wrappers are generally a mixture of different kinds of paper and plastic and are definitely *not* recyclable. And no candy wrappers are recyclable unless they are clean. That half-chewed Tootsie Roll tucked in the wrapper definitely needs to go in the garbage. I put on a sturdy pair of rubber gloves when we got home from the parade and separated out everything. Live and learn!

Green Team Tip of the Month – July/August

Have you thought of going solar? Now is a great time to explore the idea further. The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition is partnering with the MREA (Midwest Renewal Energy Association) and CUB (the Citizens Utility Board) to promote Grow Solar Chicagoland. Grow Solar Chicagoland is a grassroots residential and commercial group purchasing program for solar. Home and business owners throughout Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake and Kane counties may participate in this program to help pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable.



The program builds on previous years of successful programs that helped over 200 local property owners go solar. Don and I are among those 200 owners. That’s our roof in the picture above. It’s worked out well for us and we really enjoyed the \$9.06 electric bill we got in June. To get started, take a look at the Grow Solar website: <https://www.growsolar.org/chicagoland/>. If you scroll down, you will find a list of “Solar Power Hours”. I recommend attending one of these presentations to get you started. There’s one at SCARCE coming up in July. If you have any questions, after you’ve done so, let us know and we would be glad to share our experience with you.

Karen Pachyn

HERITAGE BUNCH

Greetings ...

We are called the Heritage Bunch
We meet 10 to Noon ...yes, just before lunch
Two Wednesdays a month and we really have fun
It's interesting talk ... from when we start till we're done!

We solve the world's problems, of each other we care
We talk and we laugh and we end with a prayer.

If you're looking for a group, but you don't just know where
There's nothing we'd like better than to have you right there.

Come join us ...On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE

Caring for One Another

Supporting our members during everyday occurrences, ailments, and even the passing away of a loved one is highest among our calling as a church.



During this period of a pastoral search, Rev. Jan Davis will be providing pastoral care. She will be reaching out to those of us that have enjoyed regular pastoral visits and for any emergency that may arise.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office at 630-832-2580.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Dave Ogdon | 22 Maricin Jackson |
| 8 Alex Stone | 23 Tammy Hicks |
| 12 Cataleya Jackson | 25 Mike Hennel |
| 13 Shirley Myers | 27 Keil Rosen |
| 14 Jeff Morrow | 27 Sam Rosen |
| 16 Janet Russell | 29 Becky Swanson |



2 Luke Brigman
 7 Bobbie Schultz
 15 Calvin Jackson
 21 Terry Hennen
 21 Aidan McGarry

23 Barbara Sullivan
 26 Carson Hicks
 29 Jean Schildbach
 31 Amelia Morrow



August (Augie) Carlson
 Maxine Cassidy
 Dan Dallas
 Linda Donahue
 Ed Eckert

Susan Graybill
 Basia Rudy
 Karen Sloma
 Ann Thoele
 Bob Tracy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July	Event	Time
3	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
3	Fourth of July Celebration with Pie in the Parlor	11:00 a.m.
7	De Colores Program Aide Meeting-- Parlor	7:00 p.m.
10	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
13	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
17	Gospel Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
24	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
24	De Colores Adult Volunteer Meeting	11:00 a.m.
27	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
31	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.

August	Event	Time
1-5	De Colores Children's Spanish Camp	9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
7	De Colores Celebration Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
7	Ice Cream Social	11:00 a.m.
10	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
14	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
21	Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
21	High School Gathering Dinner & Discussion	4:00 p.m.
24	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
28	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.

TITHE.LY GIVING



Give with Tithe.ly from anywhere at any time. Download the Tithe.ly giving app to get started. You'll find First Congregational United Church of Christ, Elmhurst, IL. Your gift is safe and secure and goes directly to our church. Click [HERE](https://get.tithe.ly/) for more info on Tithe.ly



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Partners in Christ's Service

Pastoral Care

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Church Staff

Martha Mendoza, Director of Christian Education
Jim Molina, Director of Music
Heather Cross, Bookkeeper
Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

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